

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9181

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR NO

SUBJ: FOREIGN SMALL EARTH STATION TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 282811

1. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO SMALL NORWEGIAN EARTH STATIONS IN OPERATION, BUT FIVE EARTH STATIONS WILL BE BUILT BY THE END OF 1977.

2. THE BASIC BACKGROUND FOR THE PROGRAMMED EARTH STATION PROJECTS IS THE EXTENSIVE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH SEA AND THE GROWING DEMAND FOR SUMMICIENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE MANY OIL RIGS LOCATED OFF THE NORWEGIAN COASTLINE. THREE EARTH STATIONS WILL BE INSTALLED ON PRODUCTION PLATFORMS, RESPECTIVELY ("EDOFISK", "FRIGG" AND "STATFJORD", RESPECTIVELY), ONE EARTH STATION WILL BE LOCATED IN STAVANGER, AND THE LAST STATION IS PROGRAMMED FOR OPERATION AT SVALBARD. ALL THESE STATIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE INTELSAT-SYSTEM, WITH WHICH NORWAY HAS A SPECIAL AGREEMENT, EFFECTIVE FROM 1975 TO 1980.

3. THE FIRST EARTH STATION IS ALREADY BEING BUILT AND PROGRAMMED FOR OPERATION IN NOVEMBER 1975. TWO OTHER STATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN 1975 AND ONE WILL BE BUILT IN 1976. THE LAST PROGRAMMED STATION WILL BE IN-

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STALLED AT SVALBARD IN 1977.

4. THE NORWEGIAN EARTH STATION PROJECT, ALSO CALLED "NOR-SAT", WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THE NORWEGIAN TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION (NTA), BUT IS FINANCED BY THE OIL COMPANIES. ACCORDING TO NTA, THERE ARE NO FURTHER PROJECTS INVOLVING SMALL EARTH STATIONS PLANNED FOR THE PERIOD 1975-1985.

5. HARDWARE FOR FOUR EARTH STATIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN ORDERED. FOURTEEN COMPANIES RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST FOR BIDS AND THE JAPANESE COMPANY C. ITC & CO, REPRESENTING MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP. AND FUJITSU LIMITED, WAS DESIGNATED CONTRACTOR FOR 4 INSTALLATIONS. REQUESTS FOR BIDS ON THE FIFTH STATION WILL BE ISSUED IN 1976.

6. NATIONS CAPABLE OF PENETRATING THE EARTH STATION MARKET IN NORWAY ARE RANKED IN FOLLOWING ORDER: JAPAN, U.S.A., CANADA, UK, WEST-GERMANY, ITALY AND FRANCE. NO SPECIAL PROGRAMS OR POLICIES EXIST TO FAVOR ANY OF THESE SUPPLIERS IN HARDWARE ACQUISITION, BUT IT WAS STATED BY THE NORWEGIAN TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY NORWEGIAN COMPANY CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING A SYSTEM OR EQUIPMENT FOR SMALL EARTH STATIONS.

7. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE STATED TO BE OF LIMITED IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINATION OF SOURCING. EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE, PRICE, DELIVERY SCHEDULE AND PROVEN RELIABILITY AND MAINTAINABILITY. POLITICAL CONSIDERATION REPORTEDLY DID NOT ENTER THE "NORSAT" PROCUREMENT DECISION.

8. A SATELLITE TELEMETRY STATION FOR RESEARCH OPERATIONS IS MOST LIKELY BEING CONSTRUCTED IN TROMSO DURING 1975. THIS EARTH STATION WILL NOT BE WORKING WITH A GEO-STATIONARY SATELLITE, BUT WITH A POLAR ORBITING SATELLITE. THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH STATED THAT EQUIPMENT FOR THIS EARTH STATION WILL BE SUPPLIED BY U.S., CANADIAN AND NORWEGIAN FIRMS. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TROMSO PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS FUNDS FOR ESTIMATED COSTS ARE GRANTED BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

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